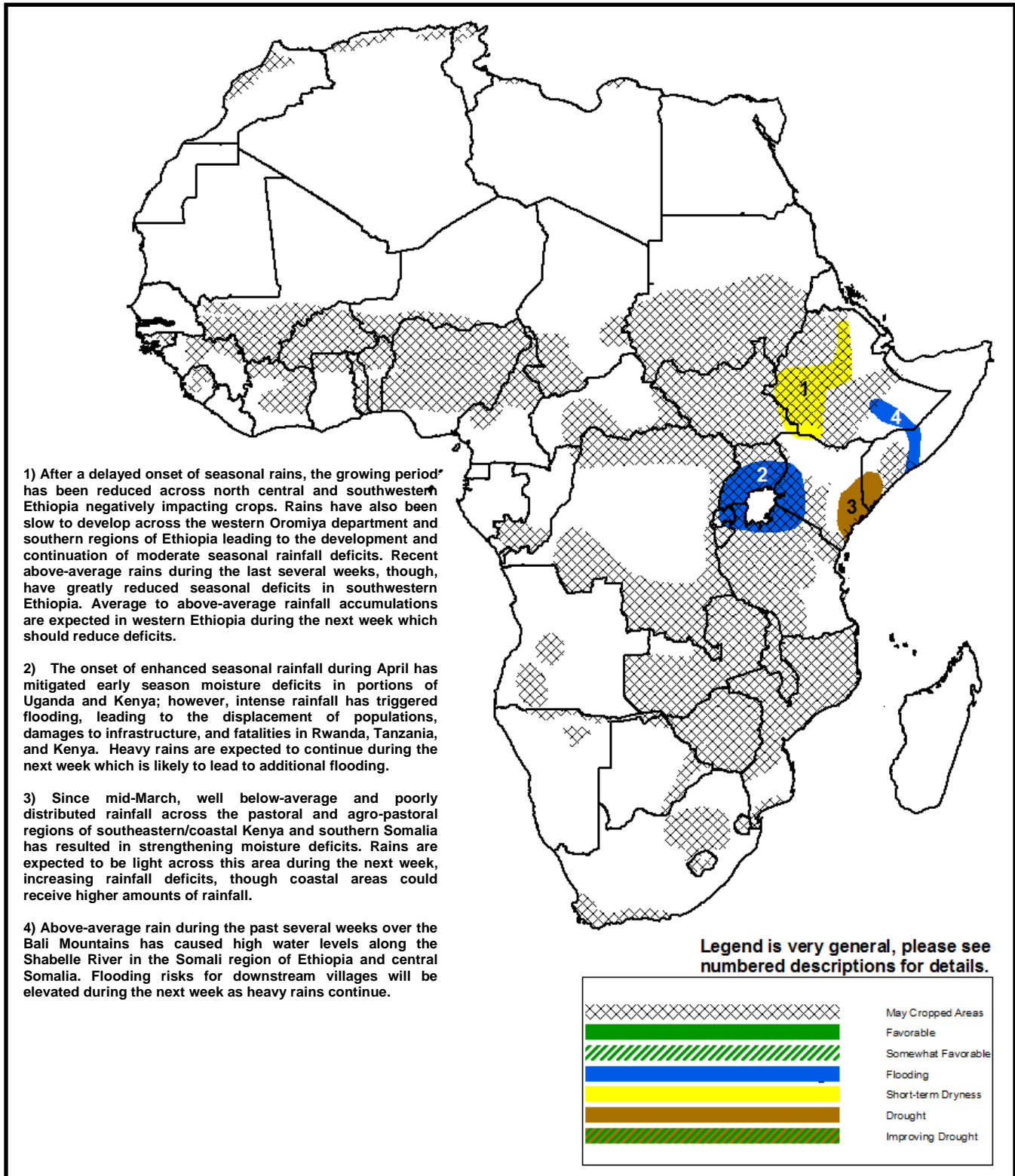


Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET May 17 – May 23, 2012

- Saturated areas in East Africa, including southwestern Kenya, observed heavy rainfall increasing rainfall surpluses.



Heavy rain was observed in Ethiopia and South Sudan.

Heavy rainfall (>50mm) over the past seven days across east Africa was widespread in inland areas including western Ethiopia, northern/central Somalia, the Republic of South Sudan, Uganda, and southwestern/western Kenya. Localized areas in these countries received torrential rains (>75mm) exacerbating already wet conditions around Lake Victoria. The abundant rains in western South Sudan provided relief from below-average conditions caused by a slow start to seasonal rains. Similarly, above-average rains in the eastern Oromiya, Amhara and Benishangul-Gumuz departments of Ethiopia decreased rainfall deficits which had been growing for the past couple of weeks. While moderate rain (10-40mm) was observed across much of Somalia and coastal Kenya, light precipitation (<10mm) was observed across southeastern Kenya and northern Tanzania (**Figure 1**). Inland areas of southeastern Kenya remain dry due to below-average rain since mid-March.

An analysis of moisture across east Africa during the first dekad of May indicates wet conditions around Lake Victoria in southwestern Kenya, Uganda, northern Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi. Thirty-day rainfall surpluses in localized areas in Uganda and Kenya exceed 100 to 150 mm. Reports of flash flooding leading to damages to infrastructure, displacement of local populations and fatalities have been numerous during the past thirty days. Moist conditions are also present across southwestern and southern Ethiopia as rains have been well-distributed during the past several weeks. Seasonal anomalies are now above-average in some places in the SNNP region of Ethiopia after a slow start to rains in March. The wet conditions in the Somali region of Ethiopia and central Somalia have led to elevated river levels along the Shabelle River and the continued risk for river flooding (**Figure 2**).

For the next week, models forecast locally heavy rain (>40mm) around Lake Victoria maintaining the risk for flooding. Moderate to heavy rain (<30mm) is forecast across western Ethiopia helping to relieve drier-than-average seasonal conditions. Moderate rains (10-30mm) should also fall across central Somalia. In contrast, below-average, light to moderate rains (5-30mm) are expected across South Sudan and eastern Kenya likely increasing rainfall deficits. Coastal areas of Kenya though should receive moderate rains (10-40mm).

Widespread moderate rain is recorded across West Africa.

Well distributed moderate to heavy rainfall (>20mm) was recorded across much of West Africa during the past seven days. The heaviest rains (>50mm) were observed across northern Togo, Benin and central Ghana (**Figure 3**). The moderate rains helped maintain early season rainfall surpluses across much of inland West Africa and reduced seasonal deficits across coastal regions. However, moderate thirty-day rainfall deficits (10-50mm) have developed across southeastern Nigeria. For the next week, moderate to locally heavy rain (>20mm) is expected across much of West Africa with coastal areas likely to receive the heaviest rainfall.

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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